SANDERSON, IVAN T. The dynasty of Abu; a history and natural history of the elephants and their relatives, past and present. 376p il $5.95 Knopf

599 Elephants 61-8530

"The Abu are the elephants and all their kin, past and present, which leads Mr. Sanderson from advice on how to televise an elephant act all the way back to a discussion of frozen mammoths in Siberia." (Atlantic) Bibliographies. Index. Two chapters were published originally, in different form, in The Saturday Evening Post and Horizon.

Reviewed by Phoebe Adams
Atlantic 210:144 N '62 90w

"[The author] was forcibly 'adopted' by an elephant at a tender age and has never since lost his interest in them. . . . His survey of the available knowledge about these creatures is written for the layman, but evidences deep research as well as long personal experience." N. E. Taylor
Christian Science Monitor p9 N 13 '62 370w

"Although Mr. Sanderson's early volumes, 'Animal Treasure' and 'Caribbean Treasure,' are delightful reading, I find this tome rather ponderous. Perhaps the change from writing of personal experience with enthusiasm to writing for its own sake may be the explanation." Walter Necker
Library J 87:4037 N 1 '62 120w

"Mr. Sanderson has watched elephants and loxodonts on their native heaths, handled them in zoos and on stages, owned one for a time, and he has read about them with a fresh and imaginative mind. His book reflects his fascination with his subject. . . . He is most exciting and most original in what he calls the 'fossil detective story' of the mammoths and the mastodons." Lewis Gannett
N Y Her Trib Books p14 N 4 '62 700w

N Y Her Trib Books p14 N 25 '62 80w [YA]

"There is no doubt that elephants are extraordinary creatures. They are so fantastic that there is really no excuse for trying to make them any more unusual than they already are. Yet this is the tendency that repeatedly rears its ugly head in Ivan Sanderson's new study of these gargantuan animals. He is not even satisfied with calling an elephant an elephant. He perversely insists on referring to elephants in general as the Abu, and the African elephant in particular as the Loxodont. Contrariness of this kind is not only valueless but also irritating. It cannot be denied that Mr. Sanderson is a lively writer with an attractively imaginative approach to animal topics, but this makes it all the more sad that he has not in this case given a more balanced report on his subject. . . . Mixed in among [some] pointless arguments there is a great deal of exciting information and the book can certainly be read with pleasure if one takes care to sift the facts from the opinions."
Times [London] Lit Sup p523 Jl 19 '63 370w